GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION MEASURES FOR MUMBAI BOMB BLASTS VICTIMS
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 174 claims of Mumbai train bomb blasts have been finalized at Railway Claims Tribunal, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases in this regard;

(c) whether it is true that in spite of Special Bench the work is very slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details about the grievances, representations received in this regard and the action taken by the Railways thereon;

(f) the measures taken by the Railways to speed up the process of settlement of claims compensation cases;

(g) the time by which all the claims compensation cases are likely to be settled;

(h) the details of Medical relief arrangements made for the blast victims for successive medical surgeries, providing hearing aids/artificial limbs etc.;

(i) whether the Railways do not make arrangement for victims beyond 'Immediate Relief'; and

(j) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) As on 22.08.2007, 272 cases have been finalized.

(b) 463 cases (7 death cases & 456 cases of injury) are pending.

(c) There is some delay in disposal of injury cases in Railway Claims Tribunal.

(d) As per judicial order of Special Bench, Medical Board has been constituted to ascertain the nature and extent of injury to decide the cases by Special Bench, which is time consuming.

(e)& (f) There are some complaints related to delay in settlement of claims cases in Railway Claims Tribunal. The following action has been taken by the Railways:-

(i) As against sittings for one week in a month by the Railway Claims Tribunal, sittings have been doubled to two weeks per month.
(ii) 2nd Medical Board has also been formed in addition to the one functioning earlier to speed up the medical reports for submission to Railway Claims Tribunal.

(g) The proceedings followed by the Special Bench consist of examination, cross examination of evidence etc. as Railway Claims Tribunal is a judicial body. As such no definite time frame can be indicated for finalization of pending cases. However, all concerned departments including the Railway Claims Tribunal are putting in their best efforts to finalize the cases in the least possible time.

(h)to(j) Emergency and Essential Medical Treatment aimed towards saving the life/limbs or other parts of the body of the injured persons of Mumbai Train Bomb Blast victims were provided by the Railways. There is no arrangement for successive surgeries and Hearing Aids for the victims to be provided by the Railways. However, all the victims requiring artificial limbs have been provided the same by various Non- Governmental Organizations.

There is no provision for giving post-hospitalization outdoor follow up treatment by the Railways.